

# CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

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**Jared Huffman**

ASSEMBLY MEMBER, 6<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

**CHAIR**, Water Parks and Wildlife

## COMMITTEES

Natural Resources  
Utilities & Commerce  
Assembly Budget Committee  
Subcommittee No. 3 on  
Resources

<http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a06>

July 17, 2009

Members, Marin General Hospital Board of Directors

Frank Travel, MD, Chair	Jeanne Austrian
Robert Heller, Vice Chair	David Bradley
Jim Dietz, MD, Secretary	Charles Lee
Edward Berdick	Patrick Bennett, MD
Bruce Hart	David Galland, MD
Gerald Wilner, MD	Matthew Taddei

250 Bon Air Road  
Greenbrae CA 94904

Dear Board Members:

I am writing in response to recent newspaper accounts that “excess” cash of \$38.7 million in 2007 and \$48 million in 2008 have been transferred from Marin General Hospital (MGH) to other hospitals in the Sutter system. Given the challenges facing MGH in the years ahead, including the transition to local control in June 2010 and looming deadlines for costly seismic safety improvements, it is hard to imagine that there could be any “excess” funds at MGH, much less the \$86.7 million Sutter has recently transferred. While Sutter obviously benefits from these transfers, my constituents do not. Taxpayers in the Marin Healthcare District will have to replace these funds, and residents who depend on MGH as a critical element of Marin County’s healthcare system will bear the impact of an underfunded MGH.

It is my understanding that assuring high quality medical care and the fiscal integrity of the hospital are core responsibilities of the MGH Board of Directors. With those obligations in mind, I respectfully request that you explain the basis for allowing these large transfers of money out of MGH to other Sutter hospitals. I also ask that you assert your authority to stop any additional transfers of these “excess” funds until the situation has been fully investigated, and it is clear that such transfers are both lawful and in the best interests of MGH and its patients. Moreover, should it be determined that these transfers of “excess” funds were not in the best interests of MGH and its patients, please be assured that I—and I suspect many others—will expect you to do everything within your power to secure the return of the transferred funds.

Finally, I ask that you provide my office with all documents that relate to the MGH Board’s role in reviewing, commenting upon, advising or approving these transfers, including but not limited to minutes and other documentation of Board meetings where the subject of transfers of “excess” funds was discussed or voted upon.

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance on this important matter. As fellow residents of Marin, I am sure that you share my belief that a financially strong Marin General Hospital is vital to providing quality patient care to our mutual constituents—the people of Marin.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jared Huffman", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

**JARED HUFFMAN**

Chair, Assembly Water, Parks & Wildlife Committee

cc: The Honorable Jerry Brown, Attorney General  
The Honorable Darrell Steinberg, President Pro Tem, State Senate  
The Honorable Karen Bass, Speaker, State Assembly  
The Honorable Ellen Corbett, Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee  
The Honorable Mike Feuer, Chair, Assembly Judiciary Committee  
The Honorable Elaine Alquist, Chair, Senate Health Committee  
The Honorable Dave Jones, Chair, Assembly Health Committee